

Flood Safety

Types of Flood Watches and Warnings

FLASH FLOOD WATCH

Issued when conditions are favorable for flash floods (sudden short-term floods that last 6 hours or less). This includes floods from dam or levee failures.

FLOOD WATCH

Issued when conditions are favorable for long-duration floods (longer than 6 hours). This includes river floods.

FLASH FLOOD WARNING

Issued when floods occur or are imminent within 6 hours of the event.

FLOOD WARNING

Issued when floods occur or are imminent and are expected to persist for more than 6 hours.

RIVER FLOOD WARNING

Issued when a flood is occurring or expected to occur near streams, rivers, lakes, or reservoirs.



Shoal Creek (Lauderdale Co.), February 2003

The driver of this vehicle is putting himself in incredible danger.

NEVER drive your vehicle across flooded roadways.

Water is a very powerful force that should never be underestimated.



Flood Safety Rules

- * ***Move to higher ground and stay away from low-lying areas such as stream beds, drainage ditches, and culverts.***

Heavy rainfall or dam/levee failure may cause excessive water to run off rapidly, overflowing natural and man-made drainage systems with rushing flood waters. These flood waters may carry debris that can cause serious injury or even death.

- * ***Stay away from flooded areas.***

Water may still be rising and is usually flowing fast. Children are especially vulnerable and should not be allowed to play or walk in flowing water. Only 6 inches of fast-moving water can knock over an adult.

- * ***Never drive your vehicle into water of unknown depths or around barricades.***

Many flood deaths occur when people drive their vehicles into flood waters. Flood waters can rise very quickly, covering the vehicle or sweeping it away. Just 2 feet of water can move most vehicles, including trucks and large SUVs. If your vehicle stalls, abandon it and immediately seek higher ground.

- * ***Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.***